

Region 3 Fire Danger Outlook

3/21/19. Covering the period 3/21/19-3/27/19

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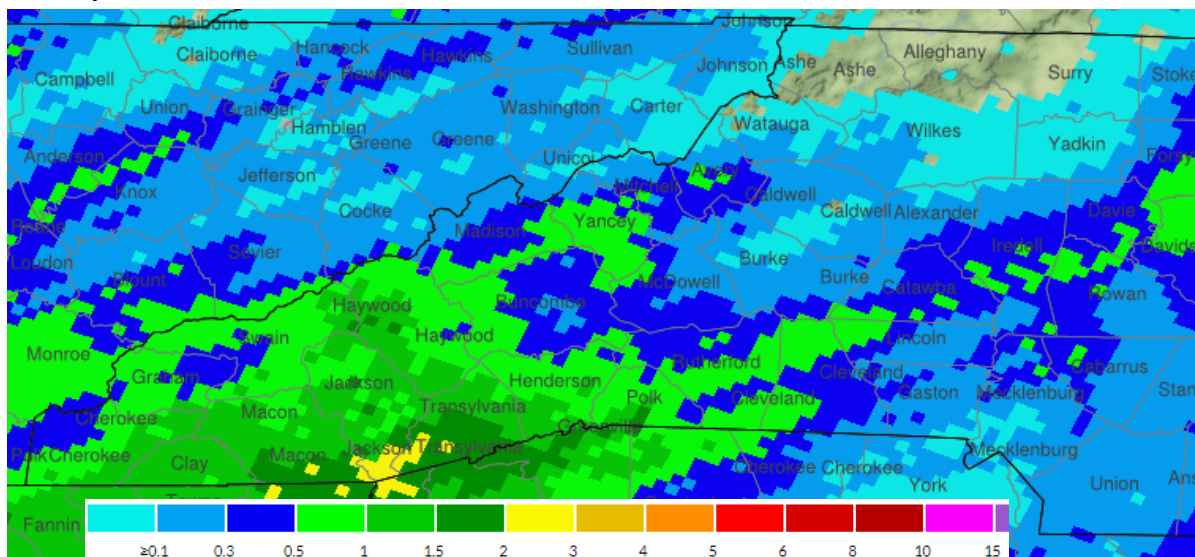
Weather Outlook

- Cool and dry high pressure moves over our region from the Great Lakes on Friday and weakens as it moves over the Atlantic to start the week. Moisture ahead of the front may produce rain showers, with snow showers at higher elevations. Low pressure is forecast to track across our area early in the week then dry high pressure returns for Wednesday. For March 28- April 3, there is 40-50% chance of **above** normal precipitation except D-12 where there is 33-40% chance of **above** normal.
- Minimum RH will generally be in the mid-20s to mid-30s Friday-Sunday, then up to the 50-60% range for Monday and Tuesday before returning to around 40% for the remainder of the period.
- Winds will generally be NW tomorrow at 10-15 MPH with gusts to 25 or even higher on the exposed ridges. For the remainder of the period, expect winds from 5-10 MPH. Mixing heights should be 4-6,000 feet Friday and Saturday, with transport winds NW 35-45 MPH Friday and 15-25 Saturday.
- High temperatures will be in the mid-40s to mid-50s for the mountains and mid-50s to mid-60s for the piedmont through the period. Lows will be in the low 20s to mid-30s for the period, except Sunday night expect 40s. For March 28-April 3, there is an equal chance of **above** or **below** normal average temperatures

Fire Activity (does not include federal ownership)

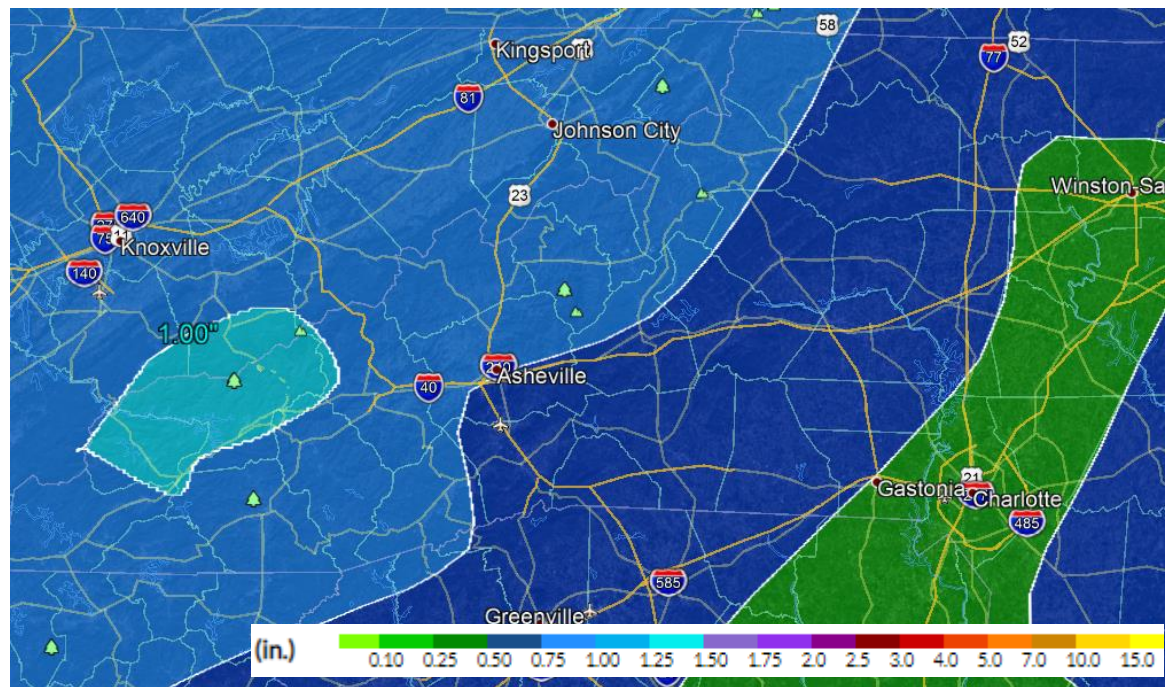
3/14-3/20	<u>Number</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Wildfire	28	14
Prescribed Fire	20	828

Precipitation Estimates for March 14th, 0800 to March 21st, 0800



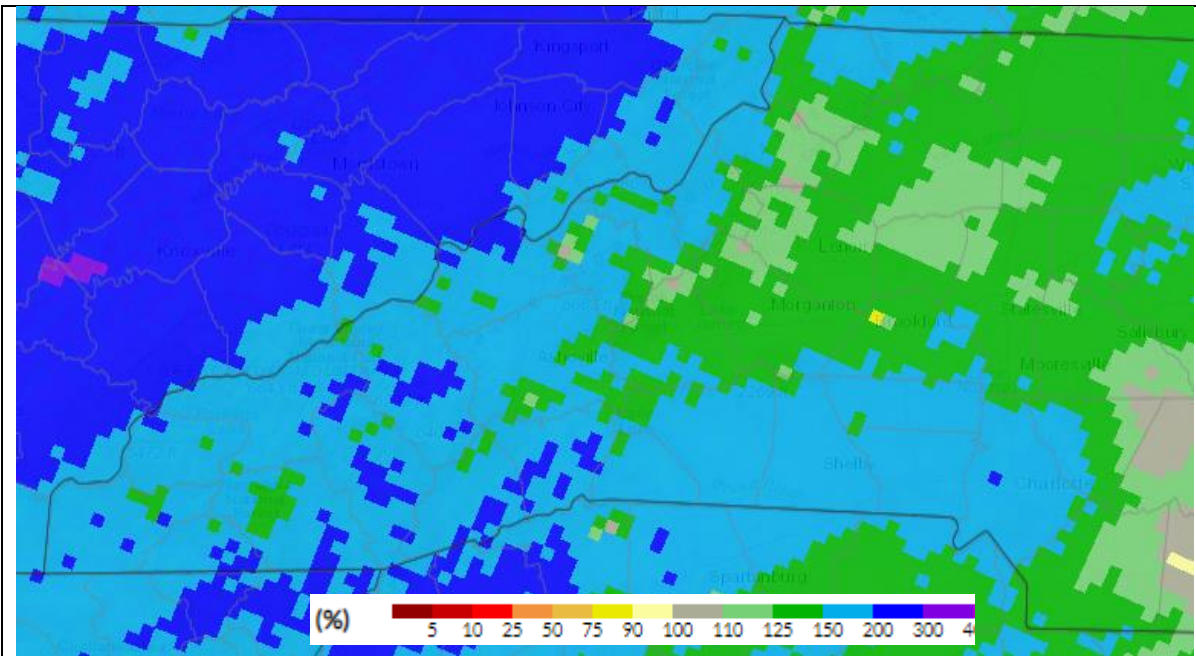
As usual, higher amounts in the SW. None along the VA border.

Forecast Precipitation, March 21, 0800 to March 28, 0800



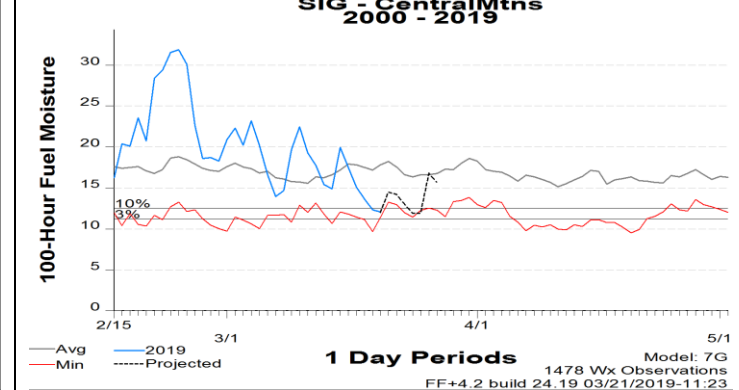
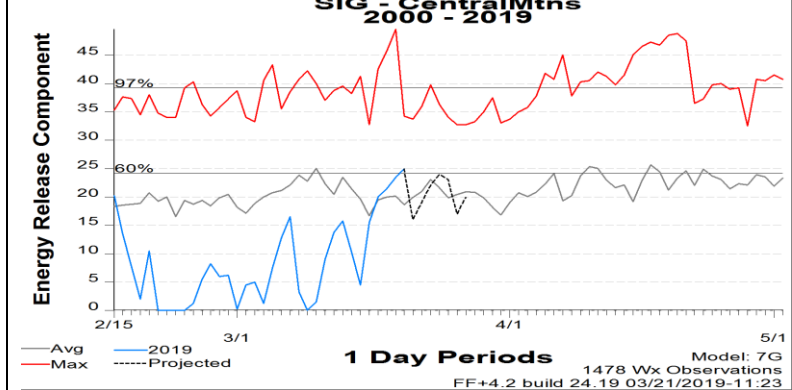
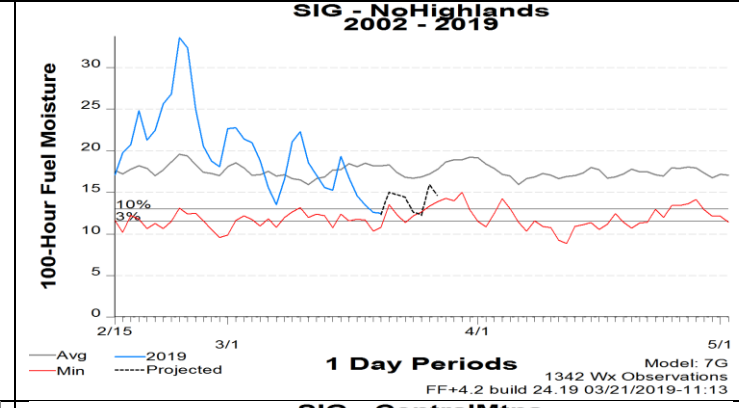
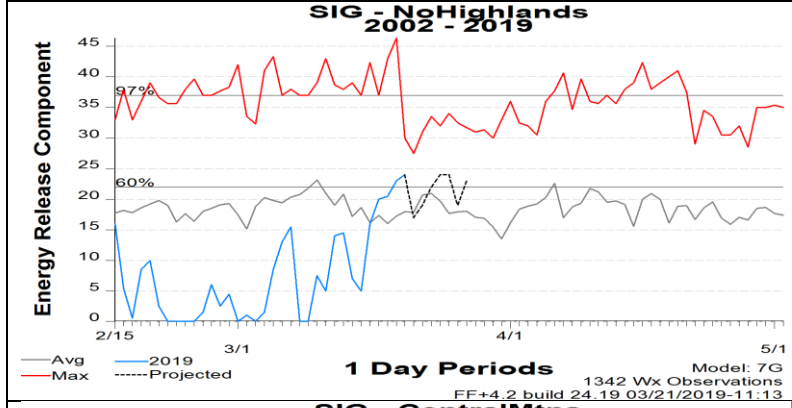
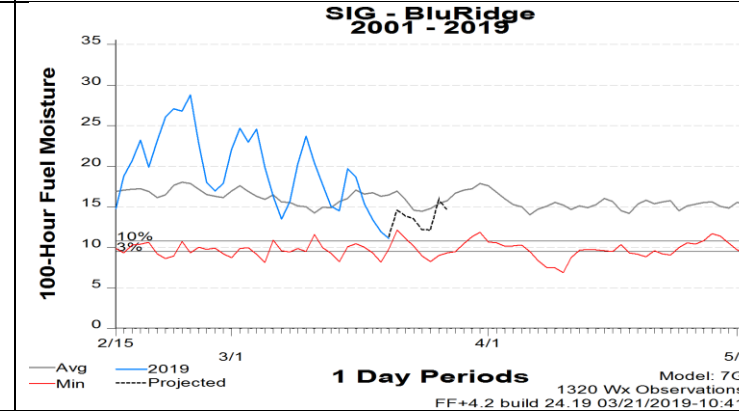
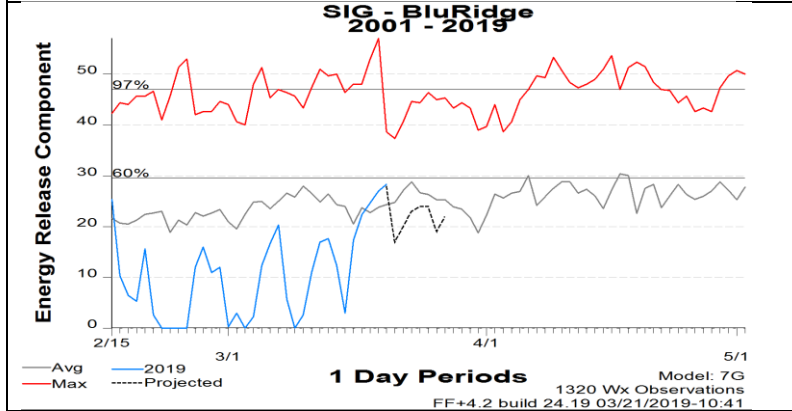
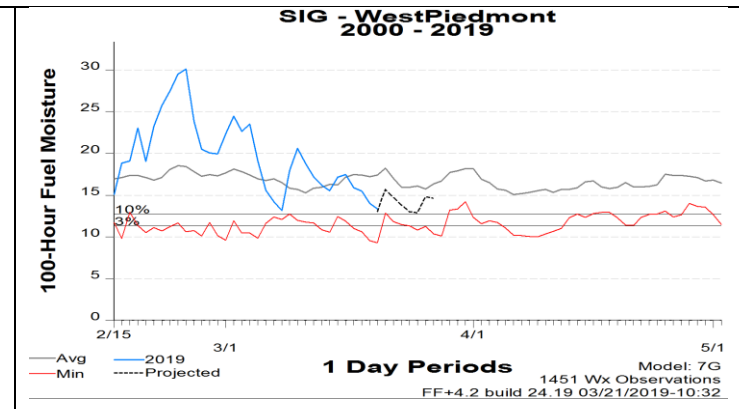
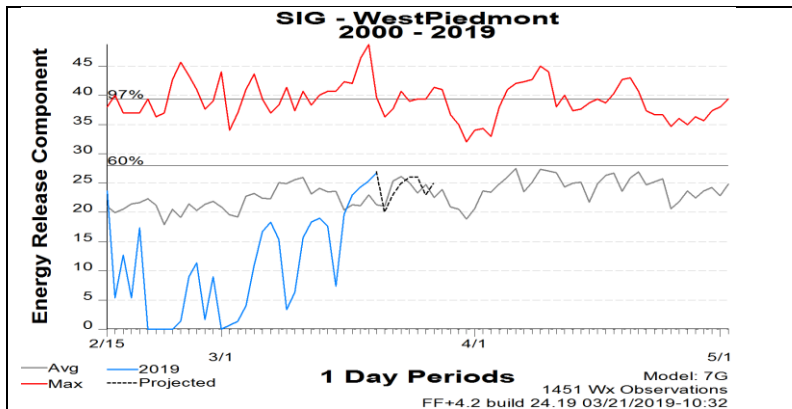
¼-1½" for the greater Charlotte area expected, with .5-1" for the remainder of the region. This is below average for a week this time of the year.

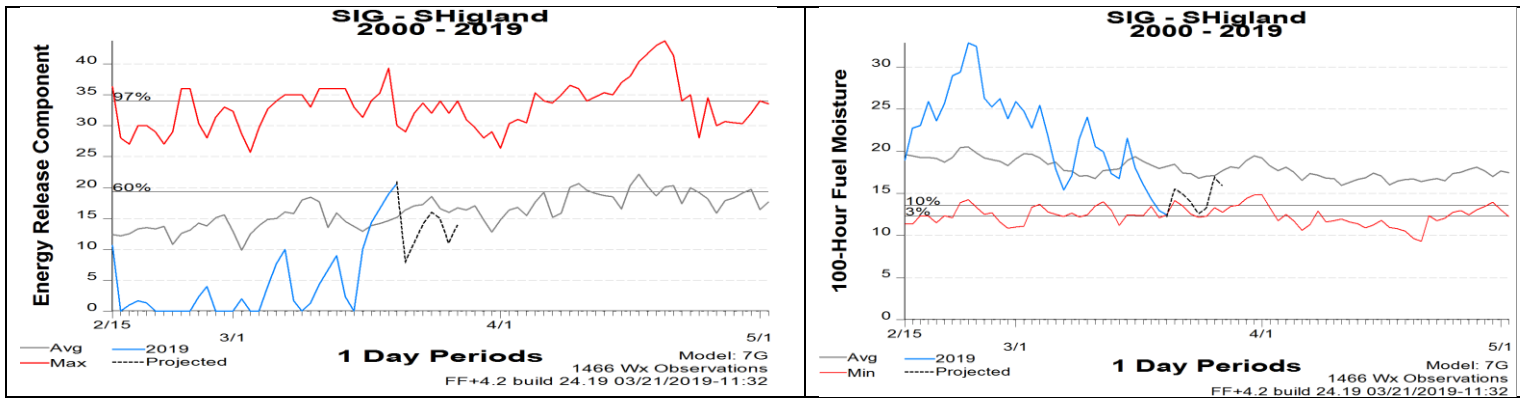
30 Day Percent of Normal Precipitation, Feb. 19, 0800-March 21, 0800



Still above normal regionwide, but not as much above as last week

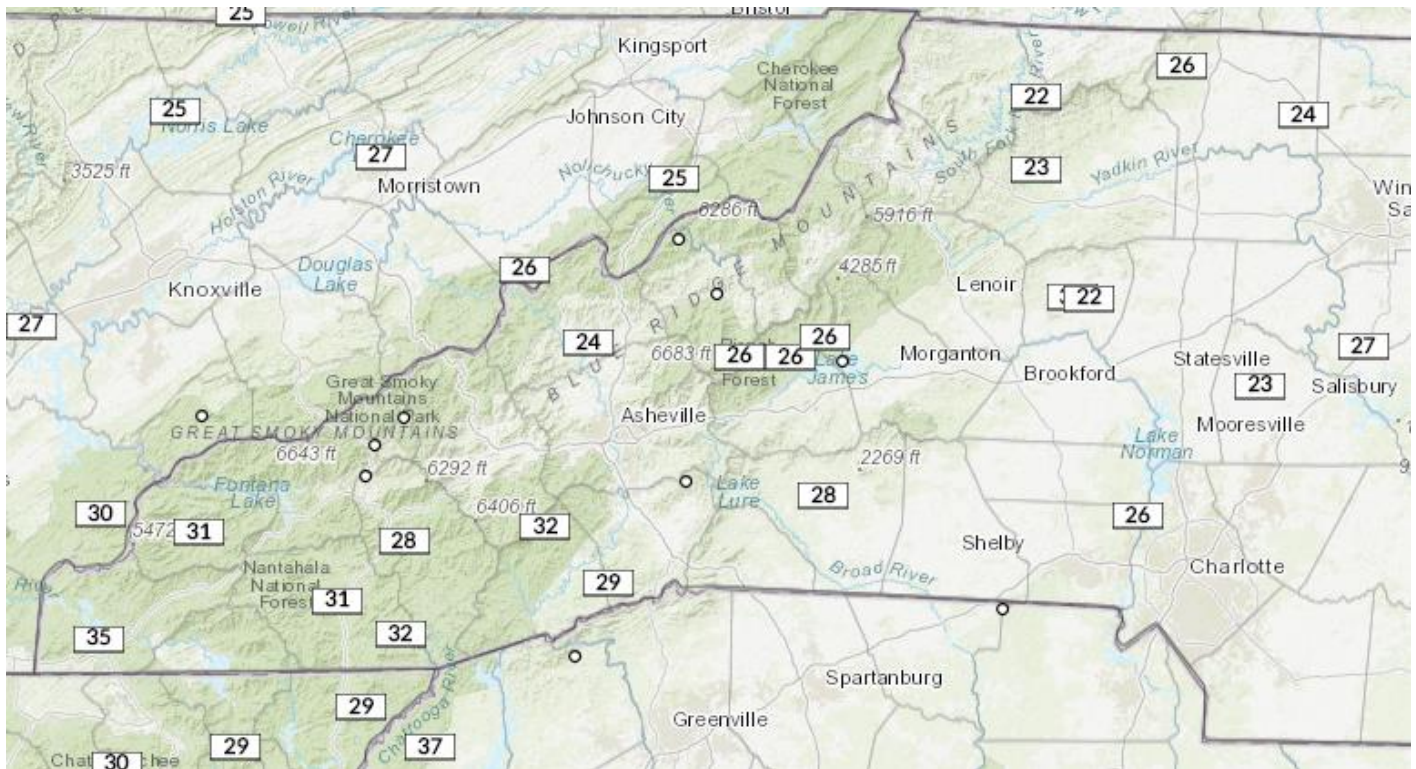
ERC Trends



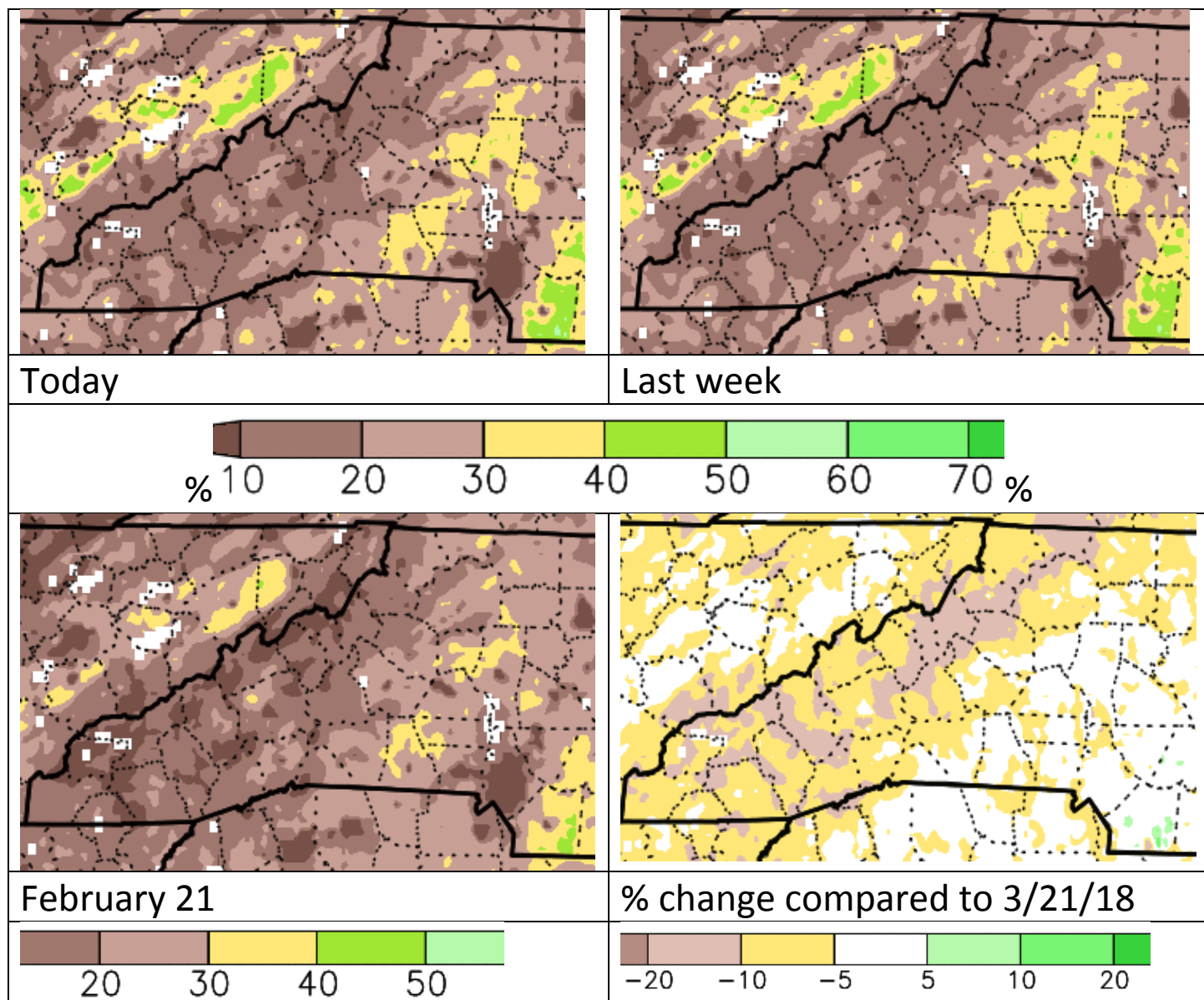


ERCs will be slightly below or right around normal, except for Northern Highlands which is predicted to be above normal through the weekend before dropping with the anticipated next rain event. 100 HR FM will be dropping to below normal by Monday, to near all-time minimums for Northern Highlands, Central Mountains, and Southern Highlands. 1000 HR FMs are still quite high and would not contribute much to fire intensity on an IA fire.

1000 HR Fuel Moisture, 3/21, 1300



Green Vegetation Fraction (%)



The Green Vegetative Fraction (GVF) is a satellite-based detection of the percent of the land that is covered with green vegetation within a 3km grid. For example, if 33% of the land within a 3km X 3km (approximately 2,250 acre) area is covered with green vegetation, that grid would appear as yellow on the map. Areas that are predominantly water will show up as white. Urban areas will appear as less green than they are. Areas with large percentages of wheat and/or cool season grasses will show as green before forests, other row crops or warm season grasses. The purpose of these maps is to give an idea of where greenness is occurring, how quickly, and how it compares with last year at the same time. It may assist fire managers in focusing attention into areas that are not so green and have a higher potential for wildfire starts.

Seven Day Potential for a Significant Fire

There has been some confusion as what constitutes a “significant fire.” A significant fire is simply defined as a fire that would require mobilization of additional resources from outside the fire event area. For the NCFS, this typically mean ground resources from outside the district (aerial resources are regional or statewide and are often used on IA fires). For example, a district has tapped all of its available tractors and an additional tractor plow strike team is needed on a fire. The district orders and received a TP strike team from another district. That would be a “significant fire” whether it lasts through 1 burning period or 2 weeks. It is not necessarily a fire requiring an IMT, although it could be. An excellent explanation of the 7-Day Significant Fire Potential Product can be found at https://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/outlooks/7-Day_Product_Description.pdf

The product itself can be found at <https://psgeodata.fs.fed.us/forecast/#/outlooks?state=map&gacId=9>

There is little or no risk for a significant fire in the region during the period.